

### **REMARKS**

By the present amendment, claims 15 and 29-38 are pending in the application.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The applicants are pleased to note that the Office Action mailed September 24, 2004 advises at page 3 that claims 15 and 29-38 are allowable.

Claims 15 and 29-38 are the only claims pending in the application as a result of the Second Amendment Under Rule 116 filed by Certificate of Mailing dated March 23, 2005.

#### **Claim Amendment**

By the present amendment, the dependency of dependent claim 35 has been changed from claim 30 to claim 15.

The wording of dependent claim 30 has been revised by the present amendment to conform dependent claim 30 to the wording of independent claim 15. Note that independent claim 15 recites "reacting an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst, ...".

In dependent claim 35, the hydrogenolysis catalyst is a solid catalyst, and on the solid catalyst, the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide or the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst is supported. Thus, dependent claim 35 is meaningful to the embodiment where the first reaction for the formation of an intermediate of formic ester ( $\text{R-OH} + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{HCOOR}$ ) and the second reaction for the formation of the final product of methanol ( $\text{HCOOR} + 2\text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{R-OH}$ ) proceed at the same reaction site.

In independent claim 30, however, unlike independent claim 15, in which the first and second reactions occur at the same reaction site, the formic ester from the first reaction is separated from the catalyst prior to the reaction for the formation of methanol product.

Consequently, dependent claim 35 should be amended to be dependent on claim 15 rather than claim 30.

In the present amendment, no other changes or amendments are made to the application except for the amendment to dependent claim 35.

It is respectfully requested that the present amendment to dependent claim 35 be entered.

It is therefore submitted that by the present amendment, the application is now in condition for allowance with the allowed claims being claims 15 and 29-38.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that in view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed and passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 14, 2005

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